

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Firefighter Memorial Service Slated for March 7, 2011

Ceremony to Pay Tribute to Salisbury Fallen Firefighters Victor Isler and Justin Monroe

Salisbury, NC – March 3, 2011_ The City of Salisbury and Salisbury Fire Department will hold a Firefighter Memorial Service on Monday, March 7, 2011 at 8:30 am. The ceremony will take place at the Salisbury-Rowan Firefighters Memorial, located adjacent to Chestnut Hill Cemetery, 1400 S. Main Street. Citizens are cordially invited to attend the early morning service, which marks the three-year anniversary of the tragic loss of Salisbury Firefighters Victor Isler and Justin Monroe. Local fire, rescue, emergency, and law enforcement personnel will pay homage to their fallen brothers during the morning service. Service attendees are respectfully requested to gather at the memorial site by 8:20 am. A designated area will be provided for wheelchair accessibility.

The memorial service will commence with an opening prayer by the Salisbury Fire Department Chaplain. Opening remarks by Salisbury Mayor Susan Kluttz and Salisbury Fire Chief Bob Parnell will follow. The Salisbury Fire Department Honor Guard will offer the "Presentation of the Flag." By declaration of the Mayor, the colors will be lowered to half-staff and stay at this position for the remainder of the day. The ceremony will continue with the "Ringing of the Bell" as the fire bell will chime five times, in three distinct sets, to signify the "last return home" for Salisbury's fallen brothers. The service will conclude with the "Placement of the Wreaths" and a final closing prayer.

Mayor Kluttz, speaking on behalf of the Salisbury City Council offers, "Firefighter Victor Isler and Firefighter Justin Monroe are truly heroes. The memory of their sincere dedication, love, and devotion for the City of Salisbury and our citizens will remain forever etched upon our hearts. We gather as a community to remember our fallen firefighters and to embrace their families and friends with heartfelt love and compassion. The enduring legacies of Victor Isler and Justin Monroe continue to live-on each day through the countless lives that they so fearlessly saved."

Chief Bob Parnell shares, "The events on the morning of March 7, 2008 have forever changed our lives. Firefighter Victor Isler and Firefighter Justin Monroe paid the ultimate sacrifice through their faithful service and loyalty. Their unyielding valor offers but a small glimpse into the superb individuals that these men truly were. The memories of Vic and Justin enable us to embrace each day with honor and to continue in the service that our fallen brothers loved so well."

Citizens are advised that beginning at approximately 8 am, a portion of South Main

Street will be blocked to traffic. The street is scheduled to reopen by approximately 9:30 am, following the conclusion of the service. For more information regarding the ceremony, please contact the Salisbury Fire Department at 704-638-5351.

The Salisbury Fire Department currently operates four fire stations and employs seventy-six full-time personnel. The department receives additional support from nine part-time firefighters. The City of Salisbury is an equal opportunity employer with over 180 different job classifications and 400 full time positions. For more information regarding the City of Salisbury and its services and departments, please visit us on the web at www.salisburync.gov. To receive updates regarding local initiatives, meetings, programs, and events, please join the City of Salisbury's Facebook users group at www.salisburync.gov/facebook or follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/CitySalisburyNC>.

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